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Farm Workers Called to Organize Now Wages Frozen as Prices Go Up

On February 5, 1951, the National Farm Labor Union issued a call to the nation's farm workers to organize now.

H. L. Mitchell, President of the National Farm Labor Union, notified all local unions officers, organizers and members that on January 26 the United States Government froze wage rates for farm workers at present rates. Farm workers were told that unless they are organized into a union they have little chance of getting their wages raised as long as the freeze lasts. The workers were told that the Wage Stabilization Board was now setting up machinery to handle claims for future wage raises and that unless farm workers joined the union and authorized it to represent them, they might as well plan to live on substandard wages as long as the present emergency lasts. They were also informed that the emergency might last for years.

Organizing Campaign Underway

The union locals advised that an organizing drive was now under way to bring into the Union all workers on farms, ranches and plantations throughout the United States. The farm labor organizing campaign is being supported financially and otherwise by some of the most powerful trade unions in the nation.

In his letter the Union President said there will be money to do the job if the nation's agricultural workers are ready to organize under the banner of the National Farm Labor Union.

Every Member Made an Organizer

Every member of the National Farm Labor Union is authorized to become an organizer to solicit members and bring into the Union's ranks all of the workers on the farms, ranches, groves and plantations in the area where he or she lives. Volunteer organizers were told that they should call upon every one who wants to join to pay his or her initiation fee of $2.00 and three month's membership dues. Local unions were authorized to accept such workers as members upon a down payment being made on the initiation fee and first three month's dues. Arrangements may be made with each applicant for future payments on his or her fees and dues. A suggestion was made that it be worked out for those who could not pay in full the initiation fee and dues, to collect a small amount each week until the member was paid up to date.

The National Union Will Help

Members who will act as volunteer organizers will be sent all material needed in their job by the national office in Washington. Just write a card or a letter to the National Farm Labor Union A. F. of L., 825 Victor Building, Washington 1, D. C., and say you want to help organize.

President Mitchell also told the members that whenever they started their local campaign to bring in substantial numbers of new members, and a national organizer was needed, one would be sent to help them. The Union President pointed out that the National Farm Labor Union now had fifteen field organizers and was in a position to put other experienced men in as they were needed.

Union Acts Mexican Contracts May be Out

Following a raid on the farm of Frank O'Dwyer and Keith Metz near Holtsville, California, January 30, by immigration officials, the United States Department of Labor announced that contracts for Mexican nationals employed by all Imperial Valley Farmers may be cancelled.

Hank Hasiwar, Organization Director, N. F. L. U., in a telegram to Secretary of Labor Tobin, February 6, demanded the cancellation of the contract whereby O'Dwyer and Metz employ Mexican nationals. The Immigration Service discovered three-hundred wetbacks employed on this farm out of a crew of 380. Eighty of the O'Dwyer-Metz employes were Mexican nationals legally under contract. The United States-Mexican Agreement provides that employers hiring wetbacks may not secure nationals under legal contract.

The Labor Department spokesman said that since O'Dwyer and Metz were members of the Imperial Valley Farmers Association, and that the Association entered into contracts for its grower members, it might be necessary to cancel the contract for the 8,000 Mexican nationals now legally in the Valley. Metz is the head of the Imperial Valley Farmers Association and Frank O'Dwyer is the brother of the present Ambassador to Mexico, William O'Dwyer, ex-Mayor of New York.

Commies Cross Border as Farm Workers

WASHINGTON — Latin American Communists are infiltrating the United States disguised as agricultural workers from Mexico.

President H. L. Mitchell of the A. F. of L. National Farm Labor Union submitted evidence to the Special Farm Labor Committee of the U. S. Labor Department .

The committee is composed of employers from the 48 states who are principal backers for the importation of 400,000 Mexican farm laborers to depress wages and working standards of American wage earners.

Mr. Mitchell said that an officer of his union had just received a letter from the "Organization of Mexican Nationals in the United States," whose headquarters are in Mexico City, that the Mexican Communist Party had recently sent in organizers to disrupt agricultural production in the United States.

Such Communist agents were reported by Mexican trade unions to be operating now among Mexican nationals engaged in farm work in the Imperial Valley of California.

Mr. Mitchell challenged the employers of farm workers to support legislation providing fair wages and a decent American standard of living for their employes.

He pointed out that there is no longer any excuse for agricultural employers to refuse to pay American citizens a fair wage with prices of farm products at a record high. He said if they would accept a permanent bill to stabilize agricultural employment, including fair wages and the right of self organization, there would be no need for importing foreign labor.

Not Way She Heard It

Shocked by the language used by two workmen repairing telephone wires close to her home, a spinster reported the matter to the company. The foreman in making his report on the incident wrote:

"Me and Bill Smith was on the job. I was up the pole and let some hot lead fall and it went down Bill's neck. He said, 'You really must be more careful, Harry,' and I said, 'Indeed I must, Bill. I will see that it doesn't happen again'."

Union Drive on Imperial Valley

Imperial Valley, the winter garden area of California, is the present scene of an organizing campaign to bring into the ranks of the National Farm Labor Union an estimated 30,000 agricultural workers employed on the huge factories-in-fields producing the fresh fruits and vegetables for the dinner tables of America.

While wage rates in the rest of the State of California are averaging over ninety-cents an hour the big farmers of the Imperial Valley pay a top wage of sixty-cents an hour for farm work. Cases have been found where Mexican Wetbacks actually work in this rich agricultural area for $3.00 a week, plus a ration of beans, flour and lard.

Organizers in Field

Hank Hasiwar, Organization Director for the National Farm Labor Union is in charge. The local unions at Brawley, El Centro, Calexico and Calipatria have formed the Imperial Valley Farm Labor Organizing Council. Headquarters have been opened in the Labor Temple at El Centro with a full time office secretary employed. Organizers, working with and under Hasiwar's direction, are Ernesto Galarza and Carl S. Lara. The American Federation of Labor has assigned Organizer Tom Randall of the Los Angeles regional office to assist in the campaign.

U. S.-Mexico Unions Co-operate

Carl S. Lara, a Spanish speaking organizer, was recently transferred from Puerto Rico to California for the Imperial Valley campaign. Lara is a native of the Imperial Valley region and it is expected that he will be stationed at El Centro on a permanent basis.

An agreement has been worked out with the Mexican Farm Labor Union across the board in Mexicali, for co-operation and co-ordination of the organizing campaign on both sides of the International Boundary. Hasiwar, who does not speak Spanish, reports that the head of the Mexican Farm Labor Union, who doesn't speak a word of English, was going about with him attending all the union meetings held on the United States side of the border. Though the two organizers speak different languages, they both talked farm labor unionism, each in his own way.

U. S. Dickers with Mexico, Farmers Want Half Million Imported

The United States and Mexican Governments held a meeting in Mexico City from January 26 to February 3, to work out plans for importing into the United States anywhere from 85,000 to half a million Mexican nationals to be exploited on the nation's farms, canneries and possibly railroads. After a week's talk, they came up with a plan to set up a permanent commission between the two countries to regulate the traffic in cheap labor. The Mexican Government demanded written contracts with our Government to give some protection while their nationlas were in the U. S. A. working for low wages. The U. S. delegation promised to ask Congress for a law to let them do better by Mexican nationals than they ever have for American citizens. In the meantime, the 1949 Mexican agreement will stand until June of this year, and the suitcase-farmers can bring in all the Mexicans and British West Indians they want under the old terms; poor wages, bad working conditions, discrimination and no unions.

Organized Labor Gets Its Dander Up

Meanwhile, an unofficial committee composed of A. F. of L., C. I. O. and Railway Unions has been formed to stop this business of bringing in poor people from Mexico and other depressed areas of the world so employers can break down standards of wages and working conditions of all American citizens.

The National Farm Labor Union informed this working committee, representing organized workers, of the negotiations beginning in Mexico to import cheap labor. The State Department was called on to give official representation to organized labor in the Mexico City Conference. The State and Labor Departments said it was too late to give labor official representation at the Mexican Conference, but requested that observers be sent to Mexico City. Frank Noakes of the Railway Labor Executives Association, and Ernesto Galarza of the National Farm Labor Union, were named as observers and sent down to take part. They got the run-around from the U. S. delegation. Noakes was called back to the States after three days. Galarza remained in Mexico City until the end of the meeting.

Secretary Tobin Meets Committee

The joint committee representing A. F. of L., C. I. O. and Railway Unions, then called on the Secretary of Labor, Mr. Tobin, to inform him of their dissatisfaction in the way the labor importation program was being handled. Tobin promised to correct mistakes made in his Department. He asked that the labor group meet with officials of his Department to discuss legislation needed to stabilize agricultural employment.

A draft of a bill to permit the importation of foreign workers was submitted to organized labor and found to be so weak and ineffective that proposals were made for a new bill to be submitted to Congress. The big farmers also have a bill even worse than the one the Labor Department advances.

Farm Labor Boards Advocated

The trade union committee submitted a proposal for a National Farm Labor Board to be set up to determine the need for foreign labor, to set standards of wages, working, housing and other conditions for agricultural workers employed in production and harvesting of crops necessary to national defense. Legislation may be introduced in Congress at an early date to provide some protection for the nation's farm workers. There is no doubt that the big farmers will get a bill before Congress also. What will happen will be anybody's guess. But for the first time organized labor as a whole is working on plans to help the nation's farm worker.

Workers Homes For $300

A program for building low cost rural homes has been started in the Island of Puerto Rico. The goal is to rehouse 20,000 families in 150 rural communities. The average cost per house is to be $300.

The program for rehousing some of the Island's rural slum dwellers, is sponsored by the Social Programs Administration, an Agency of the Puerto Rican Land Authority.

The first homes have been built. Twelve families made cash payments of $20 each, and the Government furnished them with plans and a machine to make concrete blocks. The homeowners do most of the construction work under supervision of the Government Agency. It takes about 400 blocks to make a small house. It takes a little over a day to make the blocks with machinery the Government furnishes.

One of the reasons for the low cost, is, that the cement is plentiful in the Island. However, this part of "Operation Bootstrap" might well be copied by the United States Housing Administration, which for two years has had millions of dollars to build rural homes but has done practically nothing.

American farm workers wanting to build their own homes might look into the cost of building with concrete blocks. Houses made of concrete last forever.

"Paw" Wasn't Bought

It had taken the entire morning for Zeke to tow the tourist's disabled car from Turkey Track Spring down to the settlement at Whittle Porch Clearing. When he finally returned home, with his weary old mule hitched to the ramshackle cart, his wife came out on the porch and said: "How much did you charge that city feller fer towin' him?"

"Fifty cents," Zeke answered. "Guess t'wasn't too much. Leastwise, he didn't kick up no fuss."

"Fifty cents," echoed his indignant wife. "I swear, Paw, sometimes I wish you'd pull the cart and let the mule handle the executive end of things!"

Fruit Pickers Ride Off All Directions Lose Strike

Early in January a group of fruit pickers went out in an unorganized strike for higher wages. As many as 5,000 fruit pickers were estimated to have been on strike at its height.

Starting at the town of Florence Villa, Fla., several hundred men stopped work. On the advice of some of the local officers of the N. F. L. U. they turned to the nearest source of help from an A. F. of L. Union, which was the Chemical Workers Union, that has strongly organized the phosphate mines in nearby Mulberry. The Business Agent of the Chemical Workers set out to help the fruit pickers. The organizers came but soon saw they were into something that had no relation to phosphate mining. Business Agent Hunley had a bear by the tail and couldn't turn it loose.

The Southern Director of the A. F. of L. arrived on the scene and urged the fruit pickers to go back to work, get organized into a union and then attempt to bargain with their employers. Some of the pickers followed Mr. Rhodes advice, others kept on striking; some even worked one day and went on strike the next.

National Organizer, Edwin C. Mitchell, was sent in by the National Farm Labor Union and tried to help the fruit pickers, urging them to join the six local unions of the N. F. L. U. still operating in the area.

Then the C. I. O. State Director, and Otis Nations, formerly with the Communist controlled Food and Tobacco Workers, got into the picture. They called on the fruit pickers to join the C. I. O. packing and cannery local at Orlando, some seventy miles away from the strike scene, promised them full support of the C. I. O. A few went that way. Then some one had the idea of starting an independent union of fruit pickers. That was set up next. B. A. Hunley went off to see the A. F. of L. officers in Miami in an attempt to get some help, only to return to find that he was leading a strike of two unions, one C. I. O. and the other an independent, while at the same time he was business agent for the A. F. of L. Chemical Workers Local Union.

The strike ended on January 26 when the Government froze the wages of all workers in the United States. Everybody lost out during the mix-up. The fruit pickers were the ones left holding the bag.

The National Farm Labor Union has called upon the workers to come into its ranks, organize themselves properly and try to improve their conditions by bargaining collectively with their employers. So disorganized are they — they are mixed up with three or four unions—who knows?

Associated Farmers Admit Progress of A F L Workers

SAN FRANCISCO — The National Farm Labor Union, A. F. of L., won unconscious praise from a remarkable source this month, when the Associated Farmers' January bulletin quoted U. S. Department of Agriculture figures to show that California cotton pickers enjoyed the highest picking rates in the nation.

Department of Labor statistics reveal California workers earned an average $3.45 per hundred pounds picked, as compared with the national average of $2.65.

The Associated Farmers' bulletin failed to mentioned that the California rates were won by the National Farm Labor Union following strike action and organizing campaigns in the San Joaquin Valley.

Valley Labor Shift to Imperial Is Proposed

EL CENTRO—An A. F. of L. group propose that migrant workers now unemployed in the San Joaquin Valley be brought to the Imperial Valley for the harvesting of Winter crops.

The A. F. of L. Imperial Valley Farm Labor Union council in a resolution asked the county board of supervisors to promote the idea among Imperial Valley farm associations. Hank Hasiwar, western director for the union, said there are 15,000 workers in the San Joaquin Valley now who will not be able to get work there until May.

Shot Sitting

An old man was sitting on the porch of a little village store when a big, shiny car drove up with two strangers in it.

"Hey, there," one of them called out. "How long has this town been dead?"

The old man looked at them over the rims of his spectacles.

"Well, not long, I guess. You're the first buzzard I've seen."

FARM LABOR NEWS

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Farm Mechanization Trends

Mechanization and the growth of big agriculture have been continuing at a rapid rate. After receiving considerable impetus in World War II, these trends have proceeded without any let-up in speed, affecting practically all of the major agricultural crops.

Most of this mechanization has taken place on the top third of the nation's farms, while the other two-thirds, who do not even have a tractor, have been unable to avail themselves of much new machinery or other expensive labor-saving devices. Of the 3.9 million farms having no tractors, there are, in fact, 1.5 million farms in the U. S. which do not even have a horse or mule but are entirely human-powered.

More Machinery on Farms

The number of tractors on U. S. farms increased by a million in the wartime period 1940-45, but the increase has been even greater in the five-year period, 1945-50, amounting to nearly a million-and-a-half tractors. In percentage terms the rate of increase is about the same for both periods, amounting to 57% in the period 1940-45 and 58% in the period 1945-50.

Grain combines nearly doubled in the period 1940-45 and again in the more recent years, 1945-50. Number of farms reporting milking machines increased 109% in the period 1940-45 and 95% between 1945-50. Mechanical corn pickers increased 53% between 1940-45 and 144% between 1945-50. Motor trucks on farms increased 43% between 1940-45 and 48% between 1945-50. (Agricultural Outlook Charts 1951, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.)

As a result of this, the output per man-hour in agriculture has gone up markedly, and of course the biggest increase has occurred on the large mechanized farms. Unfortunately, however, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics does not compare the increase in the large mechanized farms with that on the rest of the farms but reports only a national average for all farms. This average shows that the output per man-hour is more than half again as high as it was before World War II, the index having gone up from the 1935-39 base of 100 to 151 in 1949. Sharp as this increase is, it conceals the sensational character of the increase on the large farms as compared with the small and medium-size farms.

A study of Illinois farms by size, put out at the end of 1949, showed that one-tenth of them had gross-cash receipts in excess of $10,000 a year. This study made jointly by the University of Illinois and the B. A. E. said the upper tenth:

MACHINERY ON FARMS, U. S., 1949-50

Year	Tractors	Motor Trucks	Milking Machines (a)	Grain Combines	Mech. Corn Pickers
			in thousands		
1940	1,545	1,047	175	190	110
1941	1,675	1,095	210	225	120
1942	1,885	1,160	225	275	130
1943	2,100	1,280	275	320	138
1944	2,215	1,385	300	345	146
1945	2,422	1,490	365	375	168
1946	2,585	1,550	465	415	200
1947	2,800	1,730	580	450	225
1948	3,150	1,920	640	520	300
1949	3,500	2,100	685	590	365
1950	3,825	2,200	710	650	410

a Farms reporting, not number of machines
Source: Outlook Charts, 1951, U. S. D. A.

"These highest income farms received between 40 and 45 per cent of aggregate-gross-cash receipts for all operators."

At the other end of the scale, 21% of the farms in Illinois were found to have ended the year with a net cash loss. These farms had average gross-cash receipts amounting to $1,407 for the year, which fell short of meeting production costs by $678 per farm. Only by working off the farms or going into debt were these operators able to pay anything toward their family living expenses.

Would Push Out Smaller Farms

As the big farms continue to mechanize and to raise their productivity, the spokesmen for big agriculture and big business have become more and more bold in their demand for the elimination of the small and medium-size farms. Thus, the dean of the N. Y. State College of Agriculture, W. I. Myers, writes in an article jointly signed by F. A. Pearson and S. W. Warren that the larger farms should speed up their mechanization plans and push the smaller farms into the limbo of poetry. The article states:

"Such activities on commercial farms will take some of the sentiment and poetry out of farming. For the poetic minded the other half of the farmers that produce 10 per cent of the food will still be there as a source of inspiration."—Farm Economics, November 1950, N. Y. State College of Agriculture, Cornell University.

The Last Two Million

By MURRAY KEMPTON

H. L. Mitchell was in town last week, and even in a midtown hotel dining room he remained what he has always been—the countryman, slow in speech and unexcited, with all the fiber for the long pull that such men always have.

He has been like that for 15 years, and, in the circumstances of his mission in life, he has needed to be. They have called him "Mitch" since 1933 when he quit a job pressing pants in a Tennessee tailor shop and set out to organize the Arkansas sharecroppers.

He had to contend then with the night riders, with a thin diet and sleeping in country shacks, with a membership that flared up in spontaneous strikes and then evaporated after victory.

No other union president has felt his burdens lighten less over the last 15 years. The rest have seen their frontiers tamed; Mitchell's remains almost as wild, as dark and as unfriendly as it was when he began.

For the last four years he has been president of the A. F. of L.'s National Farm Labor Union, which has a membership as large potentially and as unremunerative currently as any in the labor movement.

Last year an average of more than 2,000,000 people were working for hire on American farms. In season, the total ran as high as 4,000,000; it never fell below 1,500,000.

But Mitchell's main target is the 12,000 largest farms in the United States, which, between them, employ 1,250,000 hired hands. The proprietors of these great acreages are more industrialists than they are farmers; they operate the last industry left in America which enjoys both a guaranteed profit and sweatshop wages.

And the farm remains not jus a fresh-air sweat shop, but the spottiest source of jobs there is. An itinerant picker is often a skilled specialist in hand labor; if he makes more than $1,400 a year, he rates as one of his occupation's top 17 per cent.

The average male migratory farm hand works 79 days on the farm for $442 cash, and between seasons picks 37 days of non-farm work for $213. He works just 116 days a year in all and his total cash income is $655.

There remains no existence as insecure as this one. Even California's 154,000 farm hands, the country's luckiest, cannot find work for more than a maximum of nine months a year. They have no system of minimum wages when they work and no unemployment insurance when they don't. From December to March, most of them live on county relief handouts.

They remain a fluid and shifting troup, although the Joads have settled down; in California, 25,000 migratory workers have permanent homes and commute to the San Joaquin Valley fields. They are more capable at the spontaneous strike than at any permanent union relationship; Mitchell's dues collections are admittedly low.

Agricultural workers have no visible protection in existing labor legislation; Mitchell is probably the only union president in America who would like to be subject to the Taft-Hartley Law. He has been able to do as much as he has because of some $30,000 in annual subsidies from A. F. of L. unions like the garment workers, the butchers, the paper makers, and the waiters.

Yet, with all that, his little union has accomplished prodigies. In the fall of 1949, two of Mitchell's organizers led a strike of 10,000 pickers in the San Joaquin Valley; ever since they have been able to enforce a wage minimum of 90 cents an hour.

Now, after all the lean years, Mitch thinks he can break through all over the country. He has asked the labor movement to lend him $250,000. That will be enough, he thinks, to rescue the outcast and beleaguered 2,000,000.

The above article is reprinted from the New York Post of January 22, 1951. Mr. Kempton is the Labor Editor of the Post.

Extension Spearheads Attack

Though the Extension Service is supposed to aid the small farmers as well as the large, Dean Myers, who was a featured speaker at the recent Farm Bureau convention, makes little attempt to veil his desire to eliminate them from federal farm programs. Even their right to cast a ballot is challenged by Myers and his Cornell associates who cynically assert:

"The half of the farmers who contribute only 10 per cent of the product have much more political power than their economic importance warrants. That is, in a nutshell, the economic problem of agriculture."—Farm Economics, Nov. 1950.

In a separate article of which he is the sole author, W. I. Myers commends the American Bankers Association for withholding credit from the smaller half or more of the farms and says:

"Farmers and bankers are natural allies in working for greater economic stability and for the maintenance of the free choice system of competitive enterprise in America."

DAIRYMEN'S NEWS

How Dairy Farmers Get Gypped

It was nearly forty years ago that the system of paying farmers different prices for their milk was first devised. This system was worked out by and for the dairy trust and it has been continued ever since. It is now in effect in thirty-five milk markets regulated under the Federal Milk Marketing Orders, except that the dealers are now required to pay into a pool, making payments based on the use to which the milk is put. Farmers are then paid a blended price, based on the uses for which the product of their labor is sold by the dealers.

Under the classification system now prevailing, the dealers constantly try to push down the prices paid to farmers for milk used in manufacturing. When the farmers force the prices up, the dealers try to pass it on in the form of increased prices for bottled milk. They then say to the consumer that the farmers are responsible for the one cent or two cents increase for a quart of milk. For the other classes of milk the dealers pay low prices and their profits pile up as is hereinafter shown.

These low prices for milk used in manufactured dairy products are very unfair to the farmer. The dairy trust has raised prices of fluid milk to the consumer by one third since 1946. According to the U. S. D. A. the prices paid to farmers for evaporated, dry and condensed milk fell from a high of $3.98 per cwt. in 1948 to $2.90 per cwt. in 1950. Also the consumption of both fluid milk and cream have been reduced since 1945.

According to Rowland W. Bartlett, milk expert of the University of Illinois, who appeared before a senate committee, the three largest milk market areas in the east, New York, Boston and Philadelphia, have so increased the price of milk that there is now "a fluid surplus of three-fourths of a billion quarts" and this is one of the costs of monopoly. When asked by a member of the committee if such monopoly prices were to the interest of the dairy farmer, Bartlett said, "Definitely, no. Monopoly Class 1 prices result in loss of sales to the consumer increasing surpluses and lower blend prices to the consumer."

The National Dairy and the Borden Co. control 60% of the milk distributed throughout the nation. In 1946 the National Dairies ranked 59th, and the Borden 67th in size, out of the total a 250 of the country's largest non-financial corporations. National Dairies operates over 400 plants in the United States, while the Borden Co. has over 250 plants and 366 distribution branches in the country. Often plants are purchased only for the purpose of getting rid of competition. There are also foreign holdings by both companies. The two milk corporations are linked directly with Wall Street. A J. P. Morgan man sits on the Board of Directors of the National Dairies, while the Borden Co. is linked with the Rockefeller interests. The large condensaries, the Pet Milk Co. and the Carnation Co. supposed to be independents, are linked up with the same interests. The A. & P.-owned Whitehouse Milk Co. is also tied in with the same group. Thus the entire milk industry is tied hand annd foot into the financial operations of Wall Street. Many so-called independent companies are under financial obligations to these powers-that-be that exercise hidden control of the industry.

The influence of Morgan and Rockefeller extend into the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Dairy Branch. The bargaining agencies set up under the U. S. and State Co-operative Marketing Acts for the benefit of milk producers, have in nearly every instance, been brought under the control of individuals who through manipulation of democratic or lack of democratic procedures that they now represent the dairy trust. Some of the Co-operative milk plants and creameries built with dairy farmers' money, have through slick management, fallen into the hands of the same interests.

Labor ON THE AIR

Good Radio Listening!

FRANK EDWARDS — News Commentator, Mutual Broadcasting System (MBS) Nightly, Monday through Friday — 10 p.m. EST.

AMERICA UNITED — Forum, National Broadcasting Company (NBC) Sunday, 12 noon EST.

CROSS SECTION USA — Interview, Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) Saturday, 4:30 p.m. EST.

Listen to these programs in which the American Federation of Labor participates. Consult your local newspaper for exact date and time when these programs are carried by your local stations. Urge your local station to carry these programs.

New York Local Union Contract

Milk Producers Local 287 of Herkimer, New York reports that it has negotiated a contract with the Little Falls Dairy providing a 17 cents price increase above the Federal Milk Marketing Order.

Other New York Locals are reported by Organizer, L. M. Gregory, to be engaged in negotiations with their distributors, and other contracts entered into by the Union will be announced shortly.

Settlement Near on All Issues Duluth Superior Milkshed

As the Farm Labor News goes to press, word has been received that a meeting has been held between the dealers and Dairy Farmers Union Local 297, which may settle the differences in the Duluth-Superior Milkshed.

A five-point program was submitted to the Union by representatives of the dealers including independent and co-operative distributors which was as follows:

1. Recognition of the Union as bargaining agent for all of its members. **Accepted.**
2. Check off of Union dues by the dealers. **Accepted.**
3. That the dairy industry, all distributors and the Union, will elect a joint committee to call for an emergency hearing under the Federal Milk Order and submit a brief in behalf of all at the hearing. **Accepted.**
4. That in case 60 per cent of the demands of the petition are not met by an amended milk order, the dealers will pay the difference in accordance with the price control law.
5. All work together and the contract to last until September 1, 1951.

The last two points are under discussion by the Union.

Almost Convinced

Jeb, accused of stealing chickens, was taken before the judge. His lawyer made such a stirring plea that Jeb was acquitted. Outside the courtroom his friend turned to him and said, "Jeb, did you or didn't you steal those chickens?"

"Well," replied Jeb, "to tell the truth I thought I did, but after hearing that there lawyer, I'm durned if I know whether I did or not."

Union Wins Round Injunction Fight

The Bogalusa, La. Dairy Farmers Local 278 won the first round of a fight that is being conducted by the Dairy Trust to stop the National Farm Labor Union from organizing dairy farmers.

An appliaction was made to district Judge, Robert D. Jones, by the Bogalusa Dairy Products Co., asking that the court restrain the dairy farmers from picketing the plant, and to declare union contract with the C. A. Stewart Co., void. Prior to the lawsuit the Bogalusa distributor had entered into an agreement with the union to pay the producers the same price as the Stewart Co. However, there was no indication to show that Borden Co. of New Orleans brought pressure on the dairy distributor to cancel his verbal agreement and bring the suit against the union.

An appeal was made by the Bogalusa Dairy Products Co. and the case will be reviewed by the Louisiana Court of Appeals. It is expected that the ruling of District Judge Jones will be sustained. The Louisiana State Federation of Laobr supplied an attorney to assist local counsel employed by the union.

New Jersey Local Enjoined

Meanwhile, following the same pattern laid down in Louisiana the dairy trust sought and got a temporary injunction in Newark, N. J. against Local No. 277, who had withheld milk from the Ideal Dairy Farms Product, Inc. and established a picket line in support of the Teamsters Union Local 680, who was likewise prohibited from picketing the plant by the anti-labor judge. A hearing is being held on February 23, to determine whether or not the Court Injunction shall be made permanent.

Dairy Locals Warned

H. L. Mitchell, President of the National Farm Labor Union, warned that this rash of "Yellow Dog" Injunctions against the small dairy farmer organizations in the A. F. of L. is spreading behind this move. It probably also has the support of the Farm Bureau, and perhaps other anti-labor farm organizations.

Attack Stalled in Pennsylvania

A maneuver by a distributor in the Pittsburgh Milkshed, to start a milk strike, has been stopped by officers and members of the N. F. L. U., Local 292. Negotiations for bargaining rights for a group of producers were broken off when the distributor tried to get the Union of dairy farmers to qualify under the Taft-Hartley Act. Donald McDonald, Secretary, and others in Local 292, smelled a rat, suspecting that this was another power move by the dairy trust to tie the union up in court. They refused to try such a foolish move.